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## Her Majesty Queen Mary

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MECCA, Etc.

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Purchases may be made now and ordered delivered on December 24 and they will be.

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W. W. DIMOND &amp; CO., Ltd

House of Housewares—53-65 King St., Honolulu.

BROUSSARD OF LOUISIANA GIVES  
VITAL FACTS IN R. R. RATE FIGHTSays People of Louisiana Are  
Opposed to Sacrificing In-  
dustry to Greed of the Sugar  
Refining Trust

Letter from Senator-elect Robert F. Broussard, Louisiana.

To the Honorable the Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: In connection with the application of the eastern railroads now pending before your honorable body, that they be allowed authority to increase their freight rates 5 per cent, I desire to submit the following facts which are of vital importance at the present time to the state of Louisiana and to the farmers who produce cane sugar in that state and in the state of Texas.

The rate to Chicago, the great jobbing center of the nation, on sugar from Louisiana points and from the Atlantic seaboard refineries is supposed to be approximately equal.

However, these same eastern railroads now asking for permission to raise the freight rates to be assessed against small shippers 5 per cent have allowed the gigantic Seaboard Sugar Refining Combine to so batten upon their revenues that trust refined sugar is being hauled from the Atlantic coast to the disributing centers of the Middle West at a loss approximately 60 per cent of the published rate.

The output of the trust controlled refineries for some years past has been in round numbers some 2,000,000 tons—rather over than under that figure.

If this enormous tonnage was handled at a profit by the eastern railroads, the revenue would go a long way towards relieving the financial distress of which they now complain.

In this connection I wish to call your attention to the testimony taken before your honorable body at Washington, D. C., on May 8 last, and published in Senate Document No. 493, 63d Congress, entitled "Rates on Sugar."

In that controversy between the representatives of the eastern and western railroads regarding freight rates to Chicago, it was brought out that the published rates on sugar "are far from being net to the rail carriers, because of absorptions and shrinkages from storage and other things." (See p. 159.)

Mr. Paul P. Hastings of the Santa Fe, in describing the practices of the eastern roads in handling refined sugar out of New York, testified: (Page 160 et seq.)

The freight at New York amounts to 4 1/2 cents. . . storage is unlimited, and we are told in Chicago that when the lake and rail lines have not sufficient storage room in their warehouses to hold the business that comes to them they have secured other warehouse space and used it as their own, which, of course, they would have a right to do under their tariff.

I am told that the going charge for storing sugar in that territory would be 1 1/2 cents for the first month and 1 cent for each succeeding month per bag of 100 pounds. Hence, if we assume a six-months' storage, we have a charge of 6 1/2 cents per 100 pounds. This added to the 4 1/2 and a fraction cents for the freight cuts the 23-cent rate a little over 10 cents. There is a "second delivery" absorption within six months that further reduces the rate 2 1/2 cents per 100 pounds. . . These absorptions, such as storage accrue directly to the advantage of the sugar shipper and he would be out of pocket if they were not in the tariffs. . . It is obvious if you pay this money out that it reduces your rate. It is also obvious that if the money paid out in such a way as storage or store delivery accrues directly to the benefit of the sugar shippers, that it does benefit him and assists him to do business against his California competitor, having in mind such terminal allowances, etc., as are a direct benefit to the shipper."

To summarize the above:  
Litterage . . . . . 4 1/2  
Storage . . . . . 6 1/2  
Second delivery . . . . . 2 1/2

Total . . . . . 13 1/2  
Rate from New York . . . . . 23  
Absorptions shown above . . . . . 13 1/2

Amt. rate remaining to Rys. 9 1/2  
The absorptions amount to 58.6 per cent of the published rate and the carriers receive 41.4 per cent of the amount they are supposed to charge for hauling this sugar.

In connection with this exhibit I wish to call your attention to the statement issued by Hon. Louis D. Brandeis, counsel of the Commission, on March 28 last. Concerning these practices he said:

"At the hearings held February 12, 13 and 14 a general survey was presented of certain special or so-called free services performed by Eastern carriers for some shippers. These free services are of many kinds. . . . Shippers of freight by the railroad must ordinarily load and unload cars at their own expense. This is one of the reasons why railroad rates are so much lower than less-than-carload rates. Shippers of freight are ordinarily entitled to only two days' free use of cars at destinations. For some reason some railroads have made exceptions at some places to these rules, and the exceptions are very expensive to the railroads."

That this is in no sense an academic discussion of these practices of the eastern railroads is evidenced by the serious situation that has suddenly confronted the people of my state within the past few days as a result of the present method of distributing the Trust output of refined sugar.

Sugar cane is the principal crop of Louisiana which is essentially an agricultural state. By reason of railroad rebating, blacklisting, violating of the Anti-Trust laws and other practices which caused the United States attorney-general of the last administration to denounce it as "a policy of long continued and unparalleled depravity," the Trust years ago effectually drove out all competitive purchasers of the Louisiana sugar crop.

The Trust acquired control of the Louisiana territory about 1890. It at once inaugurated a campaign that destroyed the market for plantation sugars and having done that it in turn began to prey upon and pillage the farmers who had produced that sugar. It compelled them to agree to sell their sugar at a fixed number of points below the New York price, the differential supposedly representing the freight from New Orleans to New York, although none of the sugar was ever shipped to New York. At the New York end the Trust systematically conducted dishonest "wash sales" of sugar upon which settlement was made for the Louisiana product at prices ranging from 15 to 50 points below the actual New York parity, and on an average, a quarter of a cent per pound below the New York price for raw plantation sugar.

After groaning under this burden for a quarter of a century, the general assembly of Louisiana, at its last session, provided the means which would enable the governor to deal effectively with the Trust.

Some ten days ago Governor Hall, having failed to induce the American Sugar Refining Company to desist from its violation of the Anti-Trust laws, particularly from deducting the fictitious freight rate between New Orleans and New York when settling with the Louisiana sugar producers, instructed the district attorney at New Orleans to institute proceedings against the Trust.

The arrogant reply of the Trust to the demand of the governor and the general assembly of Louisiana that it desist from its illegal and dishonest practices has been to close its Louisiana plant, the largest in the world, on the eve of the sugar grinding season. This will seriously embarrass the Louisiana producers.

In the disingenuous explanation of its conduct the Trust claims it wishes to dispose of the immense stock it has stored in different parts of the country before refining any more raw sugar.

The trade conditions which it pretends to be obliged to straighten out before proceeding to work up the Louisiana crop are due to the preferential treatment it has received at the hands of the eastern railroads.

I wish to make it plain that the branch refinery which the Sugar Trust has maintained at New Orleans and which has been its principal instrument in oppressing the sugar farmers of that state has also been enjoying these concessions from the railroads on sugar shipped from New Orleans to Chicago.

I wish to make it plain that I have no concern with the efforts of the eastern railroads to better their financial condition. But the people of Louisiana are opposed to having their leading industry sacrificed to the greed of the Sugar Refining Trust because these same eastern railroads do not see fit to make that great corporation pay its equitable share of the freight charges that are necessary to maintain them.

They have been willing parties to the practise of absorbing litterage and other charges which makes the handling of the refined sugar business under existing conditions scandalously unprofitable.

The courts have held that this practise is legal and the railroads can continue it if they care to.

But we object to this continuance, if when the echoes of the controversy have died out they come into court and ask that the deficit occasioned to their revenues thereby be made up in other ways. The very existence of the domestic sugar producers of Louisiana and other States is imperilled as long as these practices are continued.

Trusting that you will consider these facts in passing upon the pending application of the eastern railroads affected, I am,

Very respectfully,  
R. F. BROUSSARD.

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